

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By this amendment claims 2, 8, 9, 11 and 13 have been amended, claims 4-7 have been cancelled, and claim 18 has been added. The amendments to claim 1 are supported in the specification as-filled and also in now-cancelled claim 3. The claims presently pending before the Examiner are 1, 2, 4-11 and 13. Claims 12 and 14-17 stand withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 13 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over the published US application to Rosenbaum, 2002,0005010 as evidenced by <http://www.sea-doo.net/techarticles/loil.htm>; February 2, 2003; Robert Verret. It is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 8-11, 13 and 18 are patentable over the cited prior art.

Specifically, claim 18 recites that the propellant for internal combustion-operated tools contains as a lubricant, which is combustible without leaving solid residue encrustations, a mixture of no more than 50% by weight of branched C₉-C₁₂ alkanes and not less than 50% by weight of branched C₁₀-C₁₄ alkanes.

As discussed in the specification 1, page 5, lines 3-11, the used prior art lubricants provide encrustations on the surfaces of the metering valves, the pipelines and/or the valves of the combustion chamber of the internal combustion-operated tools referred to in the present invention. Such encrustations have the consequence of substantially reducing the service life of such tools, because these solid residue materials form encrustations on the internal surfaces of the tool, which may cause abrasion wear. The prevention of such encrustations, which cannot be easily removed and which, if assembled on the internal surfaces of the

tool, a short time will lead to the inoperability of the tool is the object of the present invention.

It has been found by the inventors that it is possible to prevent the accumulation of such solid residue materials at the surfaces of the metering valves, the pipelines and the combustion space of the tools under consideration when using a specific lubricant in combination with the combustible gases used as the propellant, namely a specific mixture of not more than 50% per weight of branched C₉-C₁₂ alkanes and not less than 50% by weight of branched C₁₀-C₁₄ alkanes. This mixture which is the preferred embodiment of the present invention provides for the unexpected technical effect that even after 500,000 operations of setting fastening elements, there are no encrustations on the internal surfaces.

Neither Rosenbaum nor Robert Verret discloses the use of the defined mixture as a lubricant for a gases propellant for internal combustion-operated tool.

There is no disclosure in either documents of the specific mixture of not more than 50% per weight of branched C₉-C₁₂ alkanes and not less than 50% by weight of branched C₁₀-C₁₄ alkanes having the defined boiling point let alone the use of such mixture as the lubricant in a propellant.

The specific mixture has been found to provide excellent lubricating properties for the moving parts of the internal combustion-operated tools in question, is very compatible with the sealing materials usually used and does not leave behind any undesirable solid deposits on the surfaces of the tool, which come into contact with the propellant or the ignited fuel gas mixture, because as a result of the high volatility and compostability. These lubricants, together with the propellant, burn completely without leaving a solid residue and do not take up wear materials and do not bond to the surfaces, which leads to abrasion of the contact surfaces of the moving parts of the tool under consideration.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that neither Rosenbaum nor Verret, whether taken alone or in combination, teach, disclose, or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 18, and claim 18 is patentable over Rosenbaum and Verret.

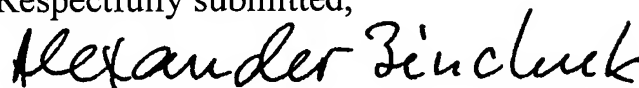
Claims 2, 8-11, and 13 depend on claim 18 and are allowable of the same reason claim 1 is allowable and further because of specific features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with those of claim 18, are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects, in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction to be carried out by Examiner's amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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